AN ADDRESS

To the people of North Carolina, on the subject of Constitutional Reform. RALEIGH, Jan. 1st, 1851. A meeting composed principally of Western Mem-bers of the Legislature was held in the Capitol, on

the evening of 1st January, inst., to take into consideration the various propositions to amend the Constitution. On motion of Mr. BYNUM, of Rutherford, GEORGE

F. DAVIDSON, Esq., of Iredell, was called to the Chair; and A. H. CALDWELL, of Rowan, and A. G. FOSTER, of Davidson, appointed Secretaries.
On motion, it was Resolved, that the only proper Republican mode of amending or altering the Constitution, is by the People themselves in Convention

On motion of Mr. ERWIN, of Buncombe, it was Resolved, that a Committee of ten be appointed to prepare an Address to the people of North Carolina; and that said Committee submit it to an Ajourned meeting to be called by the Chairman.

ADDRESS.

A Meeting, composed principally of Western members of the Legislature, without distiction of Party, was held in the Capitol on the Evening of the 1st of January instant, to consider what measures were necessary to be adopted to secure to the People of North Carolina the right to amend their State Constitution so as fully to answer the great ends for which it was originally established; and to maintain that equality of rights which lies at the foundation of all free and popular Governments.

It is a remarkable feature in the history of our State, that the Free People of the State never have had a voice in the formation of that instrument by which alone their lives, their fortunes, and their personal liberty is protected. The first Constitution was formed at Halifax, 18th December, 1776, immediately after we had thrown off the British yoke, when our ancestors were not fully alive to the interests of the people—but still retained a reverence for British usages; where property was always more respected, and had more political weight than the rights of the people. The Delegates to that Convention, in consequence of that natural deference to their ancient customs, were elected only by Freeholders and Householders; and that Convention made the Constitution so formed, the Organic Law of the State. The people who formed neither of these classes, and who constituted a much larger mass of the population of the State, had no voice in the election of Delegates; and the Constitution was not submitted to them for their approval or rejec-

At the time this Constitution was formed, all the Counties in the State except eight, lay East of Raleigh, which has been regarded as the dividing line between the Eastern and Western portions of the State. By its provisions, each County, without regard to its wealth or population, was entitled to send one Senator and two memoers to the House of Commons; and the Towns of Wilmington, Newbern and Halifax, to which was added, in 1788, Eayetteville in the East; and Hillsboro' and Salisbury, in the West; each one member in the House of Commons. Under this Constitution we lived, suffering grievances the memory of which has not yet left us, constantly struggling to amend it, until 1835-when the Legislature, in the plenitude of its mercy, granted to the people of the State the privilege to say whether they should amend the Constitution in some few points. The Delegates to that Convention were required to be sworn not to transcend the limits prescribed to them by the Legislature, itself

servant of the people. The result of their labors was the Constitution under which we now live. By it, the number of members in the Senate is fixed at fifty; and in the House of Commons at one hundred and twenty. Each county is entitled to elect one member at least; and the remainder are elected by the Counties in proportion to their Federal population :- that is, to all whites are added three out of every five slaves; and the sum total constitutes the Federal Population. In the Senate, the Counties elect Senators in proportion to the taxes paid into the Public Treasury without regard to the sources whence those taxes originated, whether from the permanent wealth of the country, or from those taxes imposed to restrain the vices of the community.

The clause prohibiting any one from voting for Senator unless he was the owner in fee of fifty acres of land, contained in the Constitution of 1776, was still retained. To this clause in our Constitution public attention has been directed for the last two years; and its anti-Republican and aristocratic character severely denounced as a remnant of the Feudal times, when the people were mere serfs or servants of the Landholders.

In consequence of the denunciation of one particular feature in our Constitution, public attention has been directed to its other provisions. Our People, in 1835, when called upon to decide upon the amendments submitted to them, only had to decide between the old and new; and they naturally preferred the latter, as it gave, in one branch, more political weight to the mass of the people of the State. It was the first instance when they were regarded at all by their own State Constitution. Being naturally lovers of peace and order, and always obedient to the laws of the land, they raised no clamors against them, until they were called upon to look into their charter of liberty, and see that it contained one feature wholly repugnant to Republican equality. In this opinion we all concur. It is right and proper that the people who are governed, should elect those who govern them; and directly at war with that sacred principle contained in the Declaration of Independence, "that all men are free and equal," to exclude from this valued privilege any freeman because of his not being a landholder.

Equally oppose to this principle is the rule by which political power is measured by the basis of representation in the Senate. To place it in its most favorable light, the Senate represents property, and not persons-money, not men-matter, not mind. But its odiousness does not stop here. You are all familiar with the subjects of taxation, and these taxes are represented-not you, the people. All white males between the ages of 21 and 45 are subject to a poll tax; and all slaves, male and female, between the ages of 12 and 50 are subject to the like tax: So that three-fifths of the negroes are represented in the House of Commons, and all the negroes between the ages above designated, are represented in the Senate; but your wives and children have no political rights. Pedlars, Billiard Tables, Bowling Alleys, Circus Riders, Playing Cards, Retailers of Spirituous Liquors, Brokers, Merchants, Watches and Carriages are all taxed. They have their Senators in the State Legislature. But your wives and your daughters; your old men who have served their country; your young men who are rising up to be its hope and its stay; and your poor men upon whom misfortune has laid its heavy hand; have no one there to plead their cause and protect their rights. Is this Liberty ?- Is this Freedom ?-Is this Bepublican equaly?

Your Bill of Rights says "That all political power is vested in and derived from the people only." Is power in the Senate of North Carolina derived from the people only?" Let it not be said that taxation and representation go hand in hand. That principle has no application here. It is true that our ancestors fought the battles of the Revolution upon the principle that they were not to be taxed by a body in which they were not represented. But who represented? certainly the people—those who paid the taxes-not the taxes themselves. Our ancestors never claimed that their property should be represented. They claimed, and justly too, that they should be represented. In the Senate, property is represented and not the people; and the same principle which prompted our ancestors to that glo-rious contest, and sustained them in it, which terminated in the achievement of our Liberties, should prompt us to war against this most odious anti-re-publican remnant of feudal aristocracy by which the people are taxed by a body in which they are not

Apply the principle and see its injustice. Ten Apply the principle and see its injustice. Ten men in any one county, own as much property and pay as much public tax as five hundred men in another county. They all own the same species of property. Each of the five hundred is equally interested in the preservation of his little mite as either of the ten. Each one has perhaps made it by the labor of his hands, by the sweat of his brow. It is all he has, by means of which to maintain and provide for his family. It is the dependence of his children for education—for sustenance. And yet, by the present system, the ten are equal to the five

hundred. Is this justice? Is this Liberty? Let debt under \$100, and actions on accounts under war break out—let civil commotion arise,—whose lives are exposed for the protection of this property? lives are exposed for the protection of this property? Who are sent forth to fight the battles of your coun-

try? The five hundred go forth to fight the battles of your country; to vindicate its honor; to maintain its glory; leaving their wives and little ones to struggle on in poverty and indigence:-while the ten stay at home, enjoy their wealth, and boast of the honor and glory of their country, the bravery, the freedom, and equality of its citizens. Save us from such freedom-save us from such equality? It is no freedom-it is no equality. It is downright tyranny-tyranny in its most odious form. The few grinding into the dust the many, under the iron heel of power-power under the pretence of being derived from "the people only."

Under the operation of this principle, there are

son startling facts. According to the census of 1840, and the apportionment of Senators made under the provision of the Constitution by the Legislature of 1842, seventeen Western Senators represent a majority of the white inhabitants of North Carolina. At the apportionment which will be made in 1852, a still greater discrepancy will be found to exist. The improvements which have heretofore been made, and are still in progress in North Carolina, tend to a great increase of the value of property and of the subjects of taxation in Eastern Carolina. The Wilmington Rail Road, to which the State has contributed so much, has added greatly to the value of property of every description near it, and the amount of taxes is proportionably increased. The Raleigh and Gaston Road; the Cape Fear improvements, the appropriations to Neuse river, to Tar river, to the Weldon Railroad, all have the same tendency. And the immense money, therefore expended heretofore in North Carolina, will have the effect directly, under the present Constitution, for the next twenty years, to cause us in the West, where we have the majority of the free white people of the State, to have in the Senate only THIR-TEEN MEMBERS; while the minority of the white peo-

ple will have THIRTY-SEVEN MEMBERS! We do not desire to be understood as opposing in the least a proper system of Internal Improvements; nor as making any complaints against what has heretofore been done by our Legislature. Nor are we to be regarded as taking ground against the proper protection of property. We should be pained to see the day come in North Carolina when a system of Agrarianism would be pre-eminent; when our people would be less observant of law; less regardful of right. The true theory of free Government is the proper protection of its citizens in the enjoyment of life, liberty and property. The right of property is a right attached to the person of a citizen, and he is to be protected in its enjoyment. Taxes are uniform; and he who possesses a little is as deeply interested in its enjoyment as one possessing a greater share; and equally, -nay, more opposed to the imposition of high taxes.

Property has no rights independent of persons. You can give it no rights, nor privileges, nor immunities which affect it alone. It is matter, and cannot feel nor enjoy rights, but in consequence of its possession, you may give its owner political power and privileges. If, then, you protect citizens in the enoyment of property, is not the possessor of hundreds equally entitled to protection as the owner of thousands? Is his enjoyment the less? Do you measure enjoyment by the quantity enjoyed? Suppose you take from the rich man his thousands-it is only hisall. If you take from the poor man his hundreds—it is his all too. Which will cling to his all with the more pertinacity? Which will surround it with more guards; use it more sparingly; and more carefully provide that it shall not be consumed by profuse and lavish expenditures of Government? It is notorious that the poor complain most of high taxes, and it is natural; it is harder for them to pay them. It diminishes the aggregate of each more, although the amount taken away is less, and every poor man hopes and expects to improve his condition, and one day to become rich. Hence it is in Western North Carolina we are more interested in the preservation of slave property; because, although we may have fewer slaves, we have more elare owners; and, of course, a greater number of persons to watch over any aggressions upon it. The same is true of land. We have more land owners, and owners of every ether species of property; and fewer of that class of persons who have nothing to enjoy, and nothing protect or defend, but their rights of person.

To connect together the people of the State in one common bond of interest, it is only necessary that they should possess the same kind of property, and that taxes should be direct and uniform. Indirect taxes are seldom representatives of the wealth of the community where they are collected. The amount of public revenue collected in the City of New York is no sure test of the wealth of that city. And many of our taxes are indirect, and furnish no index of the wealth of the Counties in which they

It is idle, then, to say you must give more political weight to the rich than the poor-the owner of thousands than the owner of hundreds. A thousand owners of any particular species of property will afford it much more effectual protection than one owner of the same amount and species, under any form of government that would be tolerated for a moment in a free country.

If the West has less capital, fewer slaves, and land less valuable; they will guard their little more carefully than the East; and in guarding their own, they will guard and protect that of their Eastern brethren. We are one people, and God grant that the time may come when we may feel that we are not common enemies, but that our interests are the same. The struggle that has heretofore existed has not resulted in the public good.

Many of our citizens are greatly opposed to the election of Judges by the Legislature, as is required by the Constitution. It cannot be disguised that our own Legislature has, in many instances, been the scene of intrigues entirely at war with our ideas of the purity of the bench; and in which it was shown that neither character, nor qualifications, were made the tests for fitness for office, but simply party services. Legislatures are small bodies; usually elected upon political party grounds; and that, too frequently at the sacrifice of the best interests

Under these circumstances many believe that the people would be the safest depositories of this power. The opportunity and facility for corruption and intrigue would not exist, and the people, in acting, would not be influenced by the fear of denunciation or punishment of party men. The system has been tried in many States of the Union, and found to operate so well that it is much to be doubted whether t will not, in time, be adopted in all.

Others, too, think that they ought to hold office for a limited period. There is no other officer known to our laws, but who is limited to a short period, after which his power is laid down at the foot of those from whom he received it; and in determining whether they will again place him in power, they pass upon the manner in which his duties have been discharged. Many of these offices are of the highest character and importance, and equally requiring in the incumbent purity and integrity of character. No evils have resulted from giving the election of these officers to the people; and certainly no corruption of the people, nor of the officer, has been the consequence. And it certainly is not a question of much difficulty whether we should be cursed with a bad Judge during his life, if, in de- | tion by Legislative enactments. It is true, the conspite of all precautions, one should unfortunately be | stitution points out that as one of the modes of a-In no other instance is such flicted. Can any other be greater?

The present mode of appointing Justices of the Peace is universally admitted to be worse than a farce. A certain evening is set apart for the pur-pose; and the members from the different counties hand in the names of those they desire appointed; and they are read at the Clerk's table. Nobody hears the names, or cares to hear them. It is understood to be the season for sport,-and is one of those customs of our Legislature long known and recognised and never departed from. They are frequently selected by the members of the Legislature for the influence which each can exert at home in some particular neighborhood. And it is well known that many of those appointed are wholly unfit for the proper performance of the duties entrusted to them. And some of those duties are of the highest importance to their several counties. They enjoy and exercise the power to tax the people; they impose taxes much more heavy than those imposed by the Legislature. They regulate roads; build bridges, court houses and jails; regulate the patrol; and govern the whole police of their several counties; besides exercising original jurisdiction in all cases of

all is transacted. They have exclusive jurisdiction of the probate of wills; of granting letters of administration; they appoint guardians, and control the settlement of their accounts, and of the settlement of all estates. There are many other important duties they perform—they are in fact, the great conservators of the peace of society, and upon the proper and efficient performance of their duties, depends in a great measure, the social order, morality, peace and prosperity of every community. Surely, men upon whose qualifications for office, and proper conduct, so much depends, should be selected with great care. There is no amendment to the Constitution more imperiously demanded. buthe public good than this. If they tax the people, ought not the people to elect them? This is a question for them to decide when in Convention assembled.

It is made a question, too, by many, whether the election of Secretary of State, Comptroller and Treasurer, ought not to be given to the people; and all other officers now elected by the Legislature, of a general character, when other duties connect them with the whole State.

It has been proposed, too, to provide for the election of a Lieutenant Governor to preside in the Senate, and who shall assume the office of Chief Magistrate of the State upon the death of the incumbent. We all remember the long struggle to elect a Presiding Officer in the Senate, six years ago, and again two years ago, when that body was equally divided. A Lieutenant Governor would have removed that difficulty.

The rules of the Senate require that the Presiding Officer of that body shall not vote upon questions pending before it, except in case of a tie, and when his vote may make a tie. And he is not permitted to speak, except when the House is in Committee of the Whole. One Senatorial District is therefore necessarily almost wholly disfranchised. The impropriety of this State of things will readily occur to all.

Many other complaints exist against the present Constitution. Many other improvements could be pointed out, more consistent with the progress of the age. The science of government is progressive as every other science. The people improve; their means of knowledge increase; their circumstances

change; their relations towards one another, and towards citizens of their sister States alter. Our sister States everywhere around us are taking advantage of this age of improvement to improve their forms of government, adopted when the rights of the people were comparatively little known. Is our constitution alone to receive no improvement from the spirit that is abroad? Is North Carolina alone to stand still? Is she alone to continue bound in those shackles which have kept her limbs so long fettered in the bands of steel? Or shall she arise, like a strong man in his might, and demand that she shall be free?

To you the appeal is made. What will you do? We disclaim all desire to dictate to you, or even to suggest the alterations which should be made in the Constitution. It is not a part of our Legislative duty. We have merely directed our attention to those defects which exist in it. It is your province, when in Convention assembled, to correct these defects, and in the manner which you may conceive will best subserve the great purposes for which Governments were instituted. The position which we assume, and which has governed our course in our action upon the various propositions to amend the Constitution, which have been before the Legislature, is-

PEOPLE THEMSELVES IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED. Upon that PLATFORM we will stand; and, if we fall, it will be in advocating THE RIGHTS OF THE

If you sanction the principle that the Legislature is to amend the Constitution—that it is to be the foot-ball of every demagogue who desires to win popular favor-if it is to be mingled with the corrupting influences of party-if it is to be mixed up with the business of legislation, and to be influenced by the bartering process so freely resorted to now-adays, determining the fate of a measure here or a measure there-its fate is scaled. It is prostrate in the dust, to be trampled upon by those who understand not its provisions, and care not for its protection. It becomes the toy, the sport-the prey of those wholly incapable of the task assumed to themselves. This has been fully proved by the progress of "Free Suffrage" through the present General

Early in the session, a Bill was introduced into the House of Commons to amend the Constitution so as to allow non-freeholders to vote for members of the Senate. It was discussed at great length in that body, and a vote was taken, and it was rejected -three-fifths of the members of the House not vot-

Its friends set to work to revive it. It was reconsidered, according to a rule of the House; and by the use of those means so readily presented in a Legislative body, having power to bestow office and rewards. When the House was again called upon to vote, everything was arranged, and it passed and was sent to the Senate. And when that body came to examine into this deliberate, well-considered act of the House of Commons, to change the fundamental law of the State, it turned out that it was Free Suffrage indeed; for it gave to all freemen over 21 years of age the right to vote, for Senators, whether they were black or white, and whether they had paid tax or not! It allowed, in the opinion of many, insolrent free negroes to vote for members of the Senate!

The same scene was enacted over again in that body. The bill was rejected. Again its friends taxed their wits to revive it; and the intrigue was cunningly contrived by which it was finally forced through that body. Its friends in the House of Commons affected to regard it as at an end; and to become indignant; and a bill was introduced, and pressed through with hot haste, providing that the people should hold an election and declare through the ballot-box whether they desired a Convention. This was done to intimidate Eastern Senators who were opposed to letting the people say whether they desired a Convention or not. It had its effect. Some Senators were frightened at the prospect that the people might meet in Convention and obtain their rights. They changed their votes, and Free Suffrage passed. Upon the floor of the Senate, some Senators avowed that they were opposed to it-that they thought it an infraction of the compromises of the Constitution-but that they would vote for it solely to keep down a Convention. Other Senators avowed their determination to vote for a Convention, unless Free Suffrage passed. Free Suffrage did pass, and all its friends united to vote against a bill which only asked the poor boon for the people that they might tell the Legislature, through the ballot-box, that they desired a Convention to be called to take into consideration all the grievances under which they labor, and redress them in the manner which they alone have the right

The issue then, has been fairly presented: Free Suffrage, or a Free Convention, unrestricted by any-

thing but the Will of the People. We have chosen to support a FREE CONVENTION. We opposed Free Suffrage, not because we thought the people ought not to have it, but because we did not like the manner of getting it. We can never sanction the propriety of amendments to the Constitumending the constitution; but it is wrong, and never can accomplish the object intended by it. Let us | stood up as the advocates of their rights. Their good see how it is to be carried into effect. A bill is to be introduced into one Legislature, proposing an alteration of the Constitution. If it receives the support of three-fifths of both Houses of the Legislature, it is to be published, in such manner as the Legislature may prescribe, for the information of the people; and is then to be submitted in the next Legislature. They have to pass it again through both bodies by a vote of two-thirds of both Houses; and it is then submitted to the people who may ratify or reject it, by voting directly apon it at the ballot-

Now, is it not perfectly obvious that, by this mode, the will of a majority—nay, of two-thirds of the people, may be defeated? We have already shown that, after 1852, thirteen Senators will represent a majority of the people of North Carolina. The minority is represented by thirty-seven Senators, any seventeen of whom may defeat the will of the whole State. Is there any principle more thoroughly settled than that a majority of the people have a right to form or reform their Constitution—their fundamental naw. All constitutions it is true are demental naw? All constitutions, it is true, are de-

signed to protect the rights of minorities; it is the shield which guards their rights against all encroachments. But these shields, these guards must come, in the first instance, from the majority. In no other way can "power be derived from the people only." Free Suffrage has, it is true, passed the present Legislature; but none but Freeholders yet vote for Senators. This right, which you are told is an inalienable personal right, and which you are degraded by not being permitted to exercise, is not yet obtained; and we venture to predict you never will obtain it by Legislative action. It is deceptive, and intended to be deceptive. Many persons who voted for it, avowed their determination to go home and electioneer against it. They voted for it to kill a Convention, and congratulated themselves that they had killed both.

But if you do get it, it will only be after four more years of agitation. And every other amendment is o be made with the same difficulty. A generation may pass away, before even one amendment may be made to the Constitution, though demanded by twothirds of the voters of your State, and of the most vital importance to their best interests.

Suppose there are not two-thirds of both Houses of the next General Assembly in favor of Free Suffrage-in what situation will you be? The whole battle is to be fought over again. You begin where you first started. You will not be as near the attainment of your wishes as you are now. Is this an illustration of that principle contained in the first section of our Bill of Rights-"That all political power is vested in and derived from the people only?" The Legislature is only the creature of the people; and that mode of amending the consitution them such amendments as may suit their pleasure. | well Temple, James C. Leigh, W. D. Scarborough, It puts it in the power of seventeen Senators, representing one-fifth of the population of the State, to hold down, under the most grinding tyranny and oppression, the other four-fifths, and to taunt them with the insulting cry of Dorr Rebellion. They say we have the power to govern you; we will exercise that power; and you have no means of redress except by rebellion. Every principle of Free Government is outraged by such a course; every principle of our nature revolts at it.

The mode of reforming the constitution which we advocate avoids all these objections. There is no possibility of mixing it up with the political intrigues of the day. Demagogues have no opportunity of seizing upon some one principle, and riding upon it as a hobby into power. There is no improper and unnatural agitation of the popular mind. When a Convention is authorised, by law, the people are sensible of the importance of the task they have to perform, and fully alive to the responsibility which rests upon them. They select as their Delegates not hot-brained politicians trained in the pointed atmosphere of party corruption; but men distinguished for purity, for wisdom, for integrity, for prudence, for moderation-men who have passed the age when they are misled by the allurements of ambition; and who may desire to secure for their descendants a free, stable and conservative Government. Their deliberations are conducted with coolness and dig-

Let such a body assemble in North Carolina, and take into consideration the whole Constitution. Let their wisdom determine whether any alterations should be made, and if any, what they are. Let these alterations then be submitted to the people, and let them declare, at the ballot-box, whether they approve of the result of their labors-whether they prefer the old Coastitution or the new. There need be no turmoil-no excitement. Everything will be so important a subject. Within twelve months everything may be done, and if a change is made, the Government will be moving on harmoniously in its new sphere of action-every grievance remediedevery cause of complaint taken away-and that which has been the bane of North Carolina, crippling all her efforts to better her condition-retarding all her improvements-Eastern and Western jealousy, buried forever.

We beg our Eastern brethren not to suppose we desire to encroach upon their rights. Not a Western man harbors such a thought. Has the West ever been unjust towards the East?-can one instance be pointed out in the history of our State, where the West was not true to the East? where she failed to meet her Eastern brethren in the spirit of brotherly kindness and affection?-with that spirit which should subsist between members of the

Then why persist in charging that our objection in seeking to obtain a Convention is an attempt to deprive the East of any one of her just rights? We solemnly avow it to be our belief that every cause of complaint that either has against the other, can be easily, readily removed by a Convention; that all differences will be adjusted fairly and wisely; and that we will then form one brotherhood, united in feeling, and interest, and speedily assume that proud stand amongst our sister States to which our resources and the character of our people so eminently entitle our noble Old State.

If this one object can be obtained, we shall have done more for North Carolina than a quarter of a century of legislation under our present system can

The mode of altering the Constitution by Convention is much the most economical. The time already consumed by the Legislature in the agitation and discussion of this one proposed amendment, has cost the State more than the whole expenses of the Convention of 1835. Another Legislature will have to discuss it; and, even if we then fail, the whole cost will have been incurred. Another amendment may be proposed, and the same expense incurred. So that the mere discussion of each proposed amendment by Legislative enactment, would cost more than a Convention which would settle the whole at once

Entertaining these views, we have opposed, in the present Legislature, the attempt to take the initiatory step to incorporate Free Suffrage in our Constitution by Legislative action. We believe the mode is anti-Republican, and contrary to the free spirit of our Institutions. We believe you cannot obtain Free Suffrage in the manner proposed; and, if we are mistaken in that, we are sure you cannot obtain it without years of agitation and turmoil. We believe that one amendment in this mode will cost the State more than a Concention which would redress every grievance. We believe that a Convention can be calledthat, when called, it will be filled with the wisdom and prudence and moderation of our State; and that they can and will adjust all those matters about which the public mind is beginning to be agitated, to the entire satisfaction of all parties of the State; so as to secure every one in the enjoyment of all his rights of person and of property. This is the object of all Free Governments. We desire nothing more, and are sure the people do not.

Studious efforts have been made by a portion of

the public Press to misrepresent our views, and to attribute to us motives which we never entertained. This is a stratagem frequently resorted to, to ward off the force of truth. We are charged with having party designs; and this is charged as a party movement. The charge is not true. It is above party. Our object is to keep our Constitution out of the baneful influences of party politics; to elevate it above all other questions; and to induce action upon it by the wise men of the land. We are the advocates of the right of the people to form their own

We have an abiding confidence in the honesty and alone has governed us in our actions. We appeal then TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA, to free themselves from the shackles of party; to look at this as a question which may affect them and their prosperity, for all time to come; and to decide it as becomes NORTH CAROLINIANS-8S

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PRANCIS LOCKE, A. M. FOSTER, JOHN A. GILMER, D. F. CALDWELL, CALVIN H. WILEY, PETER ADAMS, RUFUS BARRINGER, Cabarrus. J. W. Scott, Јони Ѕигироси, ALFRED G. FOSTER, Davidson, JAS. M. LEACH, Ashe. A. B. McMILLAN, DAVID W. SILER, Macon. Caldwell. JOHN HAYES, J. H. HAUGHTON, Chatham. ANGUS R. KELLY, Moore and Montgomery. Z. RUSSELL, Yancy. SAMUEL FLEMMING, Henderson. H. T. FARMER, T. R. CALDWELL,

Burke. T. G. WALTON, DEMOCRATIC MEETING IN ROLESVILLE. According to previous notice a meeting of the Democrats of Cross Roads District was held in Rolesville on Saturday the 22d of April. On motion, Jas. M. Terrell was called to the chair and William P.

Arendell appointed Secretary. The Chairman explained the object of the meeting to be the appointment of delegates to the County Convention to nominate Democratic candidates to represent Wake County in the next State Legisla-

On motion the Chairman appointed a committee of five to prepare resolutions expressive of the sense recognises the right of that creature to dole out to of the meeting, consisting of Jno. M. Fleming, Burand Fenner Young.

> After retiring for a short time the committee returned with the following resolutions, which were

> read separately and adopted:
>
> Resolved, That we behold with great satisfaction the united front presented by the Democracy of our

Resolved, That we heartily concur in the declaration of principles adopted by our late State Convention, and in the nomination of that gallant son of Democracy, Thomas Bragg, for the Gubernatorial Chair of North Carolina. With such a standardbearer planted upon the platform of our political faith we know no such word as fail.

Resolved, That this meeting would most respectfully solicit our Democratic candidates not to treat with intoxicating spirits during the ensuing electioneering campaign.

Resolved, That the Chairman of the meeting appoint twenty delegates to represent this District in the County Convention to be held in the city of Raleigh on the 3d Monday of May, for the purpose of nominating Democratic candidates to represent Wake County in the next State Legislature of North

Under the 4th resolution the Chairman appointed the following delegates to the County Convention, viz: Allen Freemen, Isham Young, William P. Arendell, Jno. M. Fleming, Elias Wyatt, Kearney Upchurch, Fenner Young, W. D. Scarborough, Thos. J. Terrell, James Wiggins, Jas. S. Mooring, Jas. C. Leigh, Burwell Temple, Jas. R. Temple, Sidney Hester, W. J. Baker, Jno. Wall, Jno. L. Terrell, Calvin Mitchell and Solomon Walker.

A spirit of union and harmony was recommended to the Democracy of our County and State in the ensuing campaign.

Ordered that the proceedings of this meeting be sent to the Editor of the North Carolina Standard possible that of some none may be required. A contract favorable to our cause do copy the same. On motion of Jno. M. Fleming the thanks of the

meeting were tendered to the Chairman and Secre-On motion the Chairman was added to the list of delegates, the Secretary having been previously ap-

pointed by the Chairman. On motion the meeting adjourned sine die. JAMES M. TERRELL, Chir'n.

WILLIAM P. ARENDELL, Sec'y. DEMOCRATIC MEETING IN FORESTVILLE. On Wednesday, the 26th ult., a Democratic meet-

ing convened in the village of Forestville and was organized by calling Michael Thompson Esq. to the chair and appointing W. M. Crenshaw Secretary. The object of the meeting having been explained, on motion of Dr. Jas. B. Dunn

Resolved, That the Chairman of this meeting be authorized and requested to appoint twelve delegates to represent the Democracy of this District in the Democratic Convention to be held in Raleigh, on Monday of May Court next, to nominate candid ites

for the Legislature. On motion of Dr. James B. Dunn the Chairman ppointed a Committee, consisting of W. M. Crenshaw, Dr. J. B. Dunn and James A. Hicks, to draft resolutions for the action of the meeting. After retiring for a few minutes the Committee, through its chairman, reported the following preamble and reso-

lutions, which were unanimously adopted: Whereas, we, a portion of the Democracy of Wake County, being desirous to be represented in the Conrention of Democrats to be held in the city of Raeigh, on the 3d Monday in May next, for the purpose of nominating candidates for the Legislature, Therefore Resolved, That having entire confidence in the patriotism, wisdom and discretion of that Convention, we pledge our undivided and unanimous

support to the nominees, whoever they may be. Resolved, That we strictly adhere to the platform adopted by our State and National Conventions, and look upon our principles as the only bond that

binds this glorious Union together. Resolved, That we are opposed to the distribution of the proceeds of the sales of the public lands, believing the public treasury to be the proper depository of all proceeds arising from them, and where it may be generally distributed for the benefit of all. Resolved, That the nomination of the Democratic State Convention which met in the city of Raleigh, on the 19th inst. meets our most hearty approbation,

cordial support Resolved, That we cordially extend to our Governor, David S. Reid, our sincere and lasting gratitude for the able and efficient manner in which he has conducted the affairs of the State, and also for his firm and zea ous devotion to Democratic principles.

and that we will extend to the nomince our most

Resolved, That in Franklin Pierce we recognise the able and fearless expounder of Democratic principles, and the firm and decided manner in which he has conducted the affairs of the Government meets our hearty approbation, and that under his administration the country is bound to prosper. Resolved, That we hail with triumph the course

ursued by Senator Douglas in the passage of the Nebraska and Kansas bill, and admire and esteem the firm and independent position which he has maintained, believing that Congress has no right to interfere with our domestic institutions. Resolved, That in W. W. Holden we recognise the

bold and undaunted champion of Democratic principles, and that the wide circulation of his excellent paper, the Raleigh Standard, would greatly contribute to the success of the principles of the great Democratic party in our beloved State. Resolved, That we request the candidates for our suffrages to avoid treating to intoxicating drinks dur-

According to the first resolution the following delegates were duly appointed: P. A. Dunn, E. Gill, Geo. P. Allen, A. H. Hicks, Dr. Jas. B. Dunn, Isham Holden, Calvin Holden, S. H. Dunn, J. P. Robertson, Dr. W. Heartsfield, J. R. Dunn, G. C. Smith. P. A. Dunn moved the Chairman and Secretary be

added to the list. On metion of J. R. Dunn it was ordered that the proceedings of this meeting be forwarded to the Standard and the Metropolitan for publication. On motion the meeting adjourned. MICHAEL THOMPSON, Chm'n.

"UNCLE," said a young man, who thought that

W. M. CRESSHAW, Ser'y.

his guardian supplied him rather seldom with pock-et-money, and felt a little hesitation on beginning to make a request on his relative's generosity, "is the queen's head still on the shilling piece?" "Of course it is, you stupid lad; why do you ask that?" "Because it is now such a length of time since I had one." The annual income of Trinity Church, New York (as we find it stated in the New York Herald) is \$80,967 70. There are debts and liabilities amounting to \$572,488, on which a yearly interest is to be paid of \$35,569, leaving a net income to the church of \$45,405 82. Rich church, that.

CLOTHING AND CLOTHING MATERIALS.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Bureau of Provisions and Clothing, April 23, 1854. 3

EPARATE PROPOSALS, sealed and endorsed "Proposals for Navy Clothing and Clothing Materials," will be received at this office until 3 o'clock, p. m., Tuesday, 22d May next, for furnishing and delivering (on receiving thirty days' notice) at each or either of the navy-yards at Charlestown, Massachusetts, Brooklyn, New York, and Gosport, Virginia, such quantities only of any or all of the following named articles of navy clothing and clothing materials as may be ordered by the Chief of this Bureau, or by the commandants of said navy-yards, respectively, during the fiscal year commencing on the 1st day of July next, and ending on the 30th day of June, 1855, viz.:

Pen jackets, made of blue pilot-cloth, dyed in the wool 2,600 Round do do blue cloth, ao 3,000 Trowsers do do do 4,000 Blue flannel over-shirts, twilled and wool-dyed 5,000 Do under do do do do 6,000 under do drawers Canvass duck trowsers 3,000
Barnsley sheeting in the piece yards 25,000 Canvas duck, in the piecedo 7,000 Blue cloth caps 4,600

Rlankets 2,000

Black silk handkerchiefs 10,000

Blue cotton and wool cloth trowsers 2,000

Do do in the piece yards 5,000

The cotton and wool cloth must be American manufactured to the cotton and wool cloth must be considered to the cotton and wool cloth must be considered to the cotton and wool cloth must be considered to the cotton and wool cloth must be considered to the cotton and wool cloth must be considered to the cotton and wool cloth must be considered to the cotton and wool cloth must be considered to the cotton and wool cloth must be considered to the cotton and wool cloth must be considered to the cotton and wool cloth must be considered to the cotton and wool cloth must be cotton. tured, 27 inches wide inside of list, which list must consist on each edge of not less than 12 white woollen threads, woren in the whole length of the piece; must we gh not less than 936 ounces per yard, to contain in each piece about 18 yards; the warp must be cotton pure indigo blue, vandyed, and the filling wool pure indigo blue, wool-dyed. The trawsers must be made of material as thus descr bed. The blue cloth of which the pea and round jackets and trowsers are to be made must be American manufactured

India nankinpieces 700

made of clean wool, pure indigo died, and died in the weel.

The flannel must be all wool, American manufactured, wool-dyed, pure indigo blue, and twilled; must be in pieces of 50 yards in length, 27 inches wide, wighing 5 ounces per yard, with a list on each edge of 4 white woollen threads woven in the whole length of the piece. To be packed in bales of 10 pieces, the pieces to be rolled separately without cloth boards. Each bale to contain 500 yards, and 1561 lbs. flannel. The over and under-shirts and drawers and jumpers must

be made of flannel as thus described. The Barnsley sheeting must be free of cotton, 80 inches in width, and about 46 yards in each piece. The canves duck must be free of cotton, 80 inches in

width, and about \$6 yards in the piece. The shoes to be stamped with the contractor's name number of shoe, and year when made; the sizes to be in the following proportion for each 60 pairs, unless otherwise cr. dered, viz.: 8 of No. 5, 12 of No. 6, 12 of No. 7, 12 of No. 8 8 of No. 9, 4 of No. 1e, 4 of No. 11. They are to conform in all respects to the samples at the yards, and to be delivered in good strong boxes, 60 pairs in each. The name of the contractor, contents, and the year when made, marked on each box. The calf-skin and the kip-skin shoes to be pack-

The woollen socks must be woven or knit-No. 1 to weigh not less than 1,638 grains; No. 2 to weigh not less than 1,308 grains, and if knit to be ribbed. The mattresses must wiegh 10 pounds, including ticking. The nankin must be of the best India nankin, as per sample

ed in separate boxes.

at the yards, in regard to length, width, weight and texture The blankets must weigh 8 pounds each, and be 58 by 78 inches in size, texture 4 by 6 to 14 inch. The black silk handkerchiefs must be 3114 by 3114 inch.

and weigh 1 oz. and 12 gr. Troy; texture, 14 by 23 to 1/4 m. A schedule of the two s zes for each 100 pieces of made-up clothing, and for all clothing materials, will be found with the samples at the respective navy-vards; and all the above articles, including the necessary buttons, rings, &c., are to be fully equal in the quality, texture, and finish of material, pattern and workmanship, to said samples.

The number or quantity which will be required of each of

the foregoing articles cannot be precisely stated; it is even tity of any article, but only for such number or quantity of each as the service may require to be delivered at these navy-yards respectively. The price must be uniform at all

All the above articles must be subject to such inspection at the place of delivery as the chief of this bureau nardrect; and no article will be received that is not fully equal to the sample or pattern, both in material and working ship, and which does not conform in all other respects to the stipulations and provisions of the contract to be made. The whole must be delivered at the risk and expense of the contractor, in good, tight, substantial, and dry packing boxes or bales; each box and bale to be marked with th contractor's name, and the year and month when manufactured or put up; the whole to be in good shipping order free of all charges to the United States, and to the entire satisfaction of the inspecting officers, said officers to be sp

pointed by the Navy Department, The offers must distinguish the prices for each article mentioned, and must be calculated to cover every expense attending the fulfilment of the contract, including the se cessary metal and navy buttons.

In case of failure on the part of the contractors to furnish and deliver the several articles which may be ordered from them, in proper time and of proper quality, the Chief of the Burean of Provisions and Clothing shall be authorised to purchase or direct purchases to be made of what may be required to supply the deficiency, under the penalty to be erpressed in the contract; the record of a requisition, or a implicate copy thereof, at the Bureau of Previsions and Clothing, or at either of the navy yards aforesaid, shall be evidence that such requisition has been made and received. Two or more approved sureties in a sum equal to the e-timated amount of the respective contracts will be required and ten per centum will be withheld from the amount of all payments on account thereof as collateral security, and not in any event to be paid until it is in all respects ourplied with; and ninety per centum of the amount of all deliveries made will be paid by the navy agent within their

days after triplicate bills, duly authenticated, shall have Bidders whose proposals are accepted (and none others tract will be transmitted to them for execution, which catract must be returned to the bureau within five days, erclusive of the time required for the regular transmission of the mail.

A record, or duplicate of the letter informing a hidder the acceptance of his proposal, will be deemed a notife tion thereof, within the meaning of the act of 1846, archs bid will be made and accepted in conformity with this at derstanding. Every offer made must be accompanied (as directed it

the act of Congress making appropriations for the un service for 1846-'47, approved 10th August, 1846) by a written guarantee, signed by one or more responsible person to the effect that he or they undertake that the hider of bidders will, if his or their bid be accepted, enter into at obligation within five days, with good and sufficient surties, to furnish the supplies proposed. The bureau will not be obligated to consider any proposal unless accompand by the guarantee required by law; the competenced the guarantee to be certified by the navy agent, district atteres or some officer of the general government known to the be

B'ank forms of proposals may be obtained on application to the navy agents at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Bosto. New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Norjob, Pensacola, and at this bureau.

The attention of bidders is called to the samples and be iption of articles required, as, in the inspection for not tion, a just but rigid comparison will be made between in articles offered and the sample and contract, receiving no that fall below them; and their attention is also particular directed to the annexed joint resolution, in addition to the si

of the 19th August, 1846. Extract from the act of Congress, approved August 10, 1855. "SEC. 6. And be it further enacted, That from and sing the passage of this act, every proposal for naval supplies invited by the Secretary of the Navy, under the protect the general appropriation bill for the navy, approved Mark third, eighteen hundred and forty-three, shall be accompanied by a written general approved by a writen general approved by a written general approved by a written general approved by a writte nied by a written guarantee, signed by one or more respit sible persons, to the effect that he or they undertake that the bidder or bidders will, if his or their bid be accepted, enter into an obligation, in such time as may be prescribed the Secretary of the Navy, with good and sufficient sur-ties, to furnish the supplies proposed. No proposal shall is considered unless accompanied by such guarantee. If after the acceptance of a proposal and a notification thereof is the bidder or bidders, he or they shall fail to enter into a obligation within the time recovered by the Secretary obligation within the time prescribed by the Secretary the Navy, with good and sufficient sureties for furnish the supplies, then the Secretary of the Navy shall proceed to t to contract with some other person or persons for furnishing the said supplies; and shall forthwith cause the difference of the said supplies. and his or their guarantor or guarantors; and the same and his or their guarantor or guarantors; and the same and his or their guarantor or guarantors; and the same and his or their guarantor or guarantors; and the same are be immediately recovered by the United States, for the of the Navy Department, in an action of debt against either or all of said persons."

JOINT RESOLUTION relative to bids for provisions, thing, and small stores for the use of the navy. Recolved by the Senate and House of Representative of United States of America in Congress assembled. The bids for supplies of provisions, clothing, and small store the use of the navy may be rejected, at the opin the department, if made by one who is not known as a unacturer of, or regular dealer in, the article proposed furnished, which fact, or the reverse, must be distinguished, which fact, or the reverse, must be distinguished, which fact, or the reverse, must be distinguished in the bids officred; that the bids of all persons may have failed to comply with the conditions of any tracts they may have previously entered into with the ed; that if more than one hid be offered for the supplies of the interest of the conditions of any one party, either in his name, or in the name of his partner, clerk, or any person, the whole of such bids shall be rejected at the tion of the department; and that copartners of shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other; shall not be received as sureties for each other. States vessels, to procure particular brands of flour shall not be received as an articular brands of flour shall not be rec JOINT RESOLUTION relative to bids for provision and the party of the p